

Application No. 10/069,036
Case No. FA 1058

REMARKS

Status of the Application

In the above-identified application, Claims 12-30 are currently pending. Per the Office Action mailed December 11, 2003, the specification does not include Figure 1 and the specified headings; and Claims 12-30 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112.

The specification has been amended to provide Figure 1, as well as a description for Figure 1 as filed with the original application. Claims 15, 16, 17, 21, 29 and 30 have been amended and new Claims 31-38 have been added in this Response. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended only to provide clarification and consistency with respect to the language of the Claims, and not for reasons of patentability. Support for newly added Claims 31-33 is found on page 5, lines 11-19; support for newly added Claims 34-35 is found on page 3, lines 14-18; support for newly added Claims 36-37 is found on page 5, lines 1-6; and support for newly added Claim 38 is found on page 7, line 28 through page 8, line 2. No new matter has been added.

Specification

The Examiner asserts that the specification, as originally filed, does not include Figure 1, and the headings of "Brief Description of the Drawing," and Detailed Description of the Drawings."

Applicants have amended the specification to insert the heading "Brief Description of the Drawing" along with the description of Figure 1. However, Applicants are puzzled by the Examiner's assertion regarding the inclusion of the heading "Detailed description of the drawings." Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide further clarification for this assertion.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended the specification regarding the inclusion of Figure 1, which is fully described in the originally filed specification on page 7, lines 23-26 and on page 12, lines 22-26, and does not add new matter. More particularly, Figure 1 shows curves showing the fall in the ultrafiltration performance with time (flux rate in litres of ultrafiltrate per hour, plotted against the duration of the ultrafiltration operation in days) of the CDL ultrafiltration module cleaned according to Examples 3, 4 and 5 (according to the invention) during the continuous CDL ultrafiltration operation resumed following cleaning.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 12-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

More specifically, the Examiner asserts the following:

- (a) In claim 12, line 4, the term "overneutralized" is indefinite and confusing because it is known in the art that the solution is either acidic, or basic, or neutral;
- (b) In claims 17, 21, line 5 the term "the resin" lacks antecedent basis;
- (c) In claim 20, line 2, "anodic dipcoating lacquer" lacks antecedent basis;
- (d) In claim 24, line 2, "the cathodic dipcoating lacquer" lacks antecedent basis;
- (e) Claim 29 is incomplete because the steps for cleaning have not been cited;
- (f) In claim 30, lines 3-4, "the same components" lacks antecedent basis; and
- (g) Claim 29 is incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. The omitted steps are: the step of cleaning.

With respect to the term "overneutralization", Applicants respectfully respond that the Examiner's characterization of the term is incorrect. The term "overneutralization" is defined in both Claim 12 as well as in the present specification on page 5, line 31 through page 6, line 10. The specification clearly sets forth that complete neutralization is not to be confused with 100% neutralization, but is always less than 100%. Complete neutralization is present when the amount of neutralizing agent used for neutralizing the EDL binders, corresponds to degrees of neutralization of, for example, from 40% to, for example not more than 60%, based on the EDL binder. When complete neutralization is exceeded, the term overneutralization is used. For example, 100% neutralization means that 100% of the amine groups of a cationic electrodeposition binder are neutralized by acid, in other words one proton per amino group represents 100% neutralization. Consequently, 1000% neutralization means that 10 mol dibasic acid are used per mole of amino groups in the cationic electrodeposition binder. Therefore, Applicants do not believe that this term is confusing and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended Claims 17 and 21 only to provide clarification regarding the lacquer and binder components and not for reasons of patentability.

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With respect to Claim 20, line 2, and Claim 24, line 2, Applicants have amended these Claims only to provide further clarity to show that the lacquer binder may also further include the cross-lining agent, and not for reasons of patentability.

With respect to Claim 29, Applicants believe that this Claim does positively state a cleaning step, wherein the cleaning step is the circulating of the aqueous cleaning agent through an ultrafiltration module of an electro-dipcoating lacquer ultrafiltration unit. The circulating of the cleaning agent effectuates the cleaning of the ultrafiltration module, which is further evidenced in the present specification on page 8, lines 12-15. Thus, Applicants believe that the step of cleaning is accounted for in the claim as currently written. However Applicants have amended Claim 29 for purposes of clarification and not for reasons of patentability.

With respect to Claim 30, Applicants have amended the Claim solely to provide further clarity, and not for reasons of patentability, wherein the electro-dipcoating bath component is more clearly defined.

Applicants believes that all of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, have been addressed and obviated, and therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

Summary

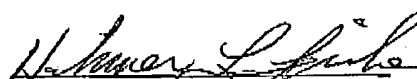
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. In order to expedite disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below to resolve any remaining issues.

Applicants do not believe a fee is due in accordance with the filing of this Response, however, should there be a fee due which has not been accounted for,

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please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours
and Company).

Respectfully submitted,


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